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28 March 1968

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for a study on

UNITED STATES OVERSEAS BASES REQUIREMENTS

to be conducted by

The Special State-Defense Study Group

A. PURPOSE

The study will examine the factors relevant to U.S. overseas basing arrangements and evolve an optimum¹ overseas base² system, with alternatives, to support the U.S. world-wide objectives, commitments and strategy through the next decade.

B. SCOPE AND APPROACH

The study will focus on U.S. overseas basing arrangements directly associated with the military posture requirements of U.S. national security to include U.S. installations and U.S. access arrangements and operating rights in support of related activities such as intelligence collection, communications and scientific research.

The study will evaluate the adequacy, continued need for and likely long-term tenure of the existing base structure in light of projected U.S. strategies and international political environments.

In developing the elements of an optimum system, it will determine relative priorities and weigh requirements against discernible costs. It will assess the political feasibility of obtaining and maintaining the essential elements and associated functions of an optimum basing system; examine the obtainability and relative functional utility and cost of alternative arrangements;

¹As used herein, optimum refers to a least cost base structure capable of supporting our strategies and forces at an acceptable level of risk.

²The term "overseas base" will include physical facilities and access arrangements outside the Continental U.S. for exclusive U.S. use, those available for combined U.S. and foreign use and those to which the U.S. would have access in certain contingencies.

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and examine the effects of total denial or functional denial at certain essential bases, including implications for possible U.S. politico-military action in support of U.S. policy.

C. MAIN LINES OF INQUIRY

The study will include but not necessarily be limited to:

1. Examination of the political requirements and treaty commitments of the U.S. during the period which necessitate a posture of military readiness.
2. Determination of the total overseas base functional requirements to support projected U.S. policy and strategy.
3. Determination of the scope, functional capabilities and general structure of an optimum U.S. basing system.
4. Assessment of the projected utility and adequacy of the present overseas base systems.
5. Recommendation of an evolved basing system with alternatives, which is the best attainable in light of the projected constraints.
6. In developing the above, consideration will be given to:
 - a. The impact of technological developments on base requirements, particularly the degree of functional substitutability between bases and the impact of projected advances in mobility capability, communications and weapon systems.
 - b. Relative priorities among bases in terms of function performed, geographic location and operational efficiency.
 - c. Discernible (to include projected) political constraints to the use of bases and access thereto.
 - d. Cost assessment in political terms, such as diplomatic dislocations and freedom of U.S. political action; as well as budgetary and international balance of payments costs.
 - e. The requirements for forward deployment of forces and for maintaining a U.S. military presence in certain areas of the world.

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- f. Base assets of U.S. allies and potential host states.

D. ADMINISTRATION

These terms of reference are intended as a guide in orienting the focus of the study. Because of the broad scope involved, selectivity must be exercised in determining those facets of the total problem that require the most intensive investigation.

Accordingly, these terms should not be regarded as rigidly constraining the form or organization of the study and of the report. Any proposals for major change in organization or emphasis in the above terms will, however, be referred to the Senior Policy Group for approval.

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